

U.S. Appln. No. 10/039,153
Amendment Dated December 20, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 20, 2004
Docket No. BOC9-2001-0013 (248)

Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for provisioning a telephone service feature, the method comprising:

identifying a telephone service feature to be temporarily provisioned for the duration of a call that was not previously provisioned by an exchange carrier;

temporarily activating said identified telephone service feature for the call; and

deactivating said activated telephone service feature upon completion of said call.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said identifying step further comprises:

receiving a call request identifying a telephone service feature to be temporarily provisioned for the duration of a call; and

determining whether said identified telephone service feature can be provisioned within a telephony network for a call serviced by the exchange carrier.

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3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein said activating step further comprises the step of allocating system resources to support said identified telephone service feature.
4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein said activating step further comprises allocating line interface circuits capable of providing said requested telephone service feature to a subscriber.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein said allocating step further comprises:
 - reserving a pool of resources for activating said identified telephone service feature; and
 - selecting from said reserved pool of resources, an available resource capable of processing said identified telephone service feature.
6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein said selecting step further comprises the step of multiplexing said available resource onto existing telephony service in order to support said call request for said identified telephone service feature.

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7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of receiving said call request further comprises:

providing a list of telephone service features offered for calls serviced by the exchange carrier to a party, said list comprising said telephone service feature to be activated; and

selecting said telephone service feature to be provisioned from said provided list of telephone service features.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said telephone service feature is a feature selected from the group consisting of a caller ID feature, a three-way calling feature, a call waiting feature, a call hold feature and a call forwarding feature.

9. (Currently Amended) A machine readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

identifying a telephone service feature to be temporarily provisioned for the duration of a call that was not previously provisioned by an exchange carrier;

temporarily activating said identified telephone service feature for the call; and

deactivating said activated telephone service feature upon completion of said call.

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10. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage according to claim 9, wherein said identifying step further comprises:

receiving a call request identifying a telephone service feature to be temporarily provisioned for the duration of a call; and

determining whether said identified telephone service feature can be provisioned within a telephony network for a call serviced by the exchange carrier.

11. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 10, wherein said activating step further comprises the step of allocating system resources to support said identified telephone service feature.

12. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 11, wherein said activating step further comprises allocating line interface circuits capable of providing said requested telephone service feature to a subscriber.

13. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 12, wherein said allocating step further comprises:

reserving a pool of resources for activating said identified telephone service feature; and

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selecting from said reserved pool of resources, an available resource capable of processing said identified telephone service feature.

14. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 13, wherein said selecting step further comprises the step of multiplexing said available resource onto existing telephony service in order to support said call request for said identified telephone service feature.

15. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage according to claim 10, wherein the step of receiving said call request further comprises:

providing a list of telephone service features offered for calls serviced by the exchange carrier to a party, said list comprising said telephone service feature to be activated; and

selecting said telephone service feature to be provisioned from said provided list of telephone service features.

16. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 9, wherein said telephone service feature is a feature selected from the group consisting of a caller ID feature, a three-way calling feature, a call waiting feature, a call hold feature and a call forwarding feature.

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17. (Currently Amended) A system for temporarily provisioning a telephone service feature, the system comprising:

a controller, said controller for receiving a call request identifying a telephone service feature that was not previously provisioned by an exchange carrier to be temporarily provisioned for a called subscriber terminal for the duration of a call that is serviced by said exchange carrier; and

an activator, said activator for activating said identified telephone service feature to satisfy said received call request and deactivating said required telephone service feature upon completion of said call.

18. (Original) The system according to claim 17, wherein said activator further comprises a reserved pool of communication processing circuits controlled by said controller.

19. (Original) The system according to claim 18, wherein each of said communication processing circuits further comprises a line interface circuit for providing said telephone service feature.

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20. (Original) The system according to claim 19, further comprising a common multiplexed bus for connecting each of said line interface circuits to a transmission conduit.

21. (Original) The system according to claim 20, wherein said controller further comprises a multiplexer for multiplexing communication signals from said line interface circuits onto said common multiplexed bus.

22. (Currently Amended) A system for temporarily provisioning a telephone service feature, the system comprising:

a communications controller for receiving a call request identifying a required telephone service feature that was not previously provisioned by an exchange carrier to be temporarily provisioned for a called subscriber terminal for the duration of a call serviced by said exchange carrier;

a pool of reserved communication processing circuits for activating and deactivating said identified telephone service feature; and

a multiplexer for multiplexing an available communication processing circuit from said pool of reserved communication processing circuits onto a transmission conduit providing service to said called subscriber terminal.

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23. (Original) The system according to claim 22, wherein said communications controller further comprises circuits and program logic of determining an available communication processing circuit from said pool of reserved communication processing circuits, and allocating said available communication processing circuit for processing said telephone service feature.

24. (Original) The system according to claim 23, further comprising a multiplexed bus for communicating telephony signals between each of said communication processing circuits and said called subscriber terminal through a transmission conduit.

25. (Original) The system according to claim 23, wherein said communication processing circuit is a line interface circuit providing local access service to said called subscriber terminal.

26. (Original) The system according to claim 23, wherein said communication processor further comprises circuits and program logic of returning an allocated communication processing circuit to said pool of reserved communication processing circuits at the end of said call duration.

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27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the exchange carrier services calls for a recipient of the call, the method further comprising the step of:

after the activating step and before the deactivating step, the exchange carrier establishing a communication session for the call.

28. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying, activating, and deactivating steps occur within a network element of a public switched telephone network.

29. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the identified telephone service feature is a feature associated with a line-based telephone number serviced by the exchange carrier.